

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 16-17, 2004

Reference No.: 2.3b.
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Mark Leja
Chief
Division of Design

Ref: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 06-MAD-99 AT ROAD 20, KP 33.6 (PM 20.9),
RESOLUTION S-724**

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Resolution S-724 and maps of the location on State Highway Route 99. The County of Madera has requested approval of a new public road connection to Route 99. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve Resolution S-724 in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to Route 99 in Madera County at Kilometer Post 33.6 (PM 20.9) and rescinds a previously approved connection at approximately Kilometer Post 34.8 (PM 21.7).

A Project Report was approved on December 31, 2003. The Final Environmental Document (FED) consists of a Negative Declaration (ND), approved on August 11, 2003, for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), approved on August 25, 2003, for compliance with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Recommended by: 
J. MIKE LEONARDO, Acting Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND

Existing State Highway Route 99 is part of the Freeway and Expressway System, and was adopted into the state system as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on April 15, 1948. The proposed Fairmead Road interchange is approximately 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) south of the SR-99/152 freeway to freeway interchange. In December 2003, a Project Report was approved for a major project to upgrade Route 99 to full freeway standards by widening and realigning where necessary, and by removing existing at-grade intersections and constructing the interchange at Fairmead Road.

The approved FED notes that removal and replacement of various intersections with the new Fairmead Road interchange will improve safety, provide for better local circulation, better main line operations and weaving, as well as overall better operational characteristics throughout the corridor. This interchange replaces a previously approved but unconstructed interchange approximately 1.2 kilometers (0.8 mile) north of this proposed location. The change in location is sufficient to require the Commission's approval of a new connection. The proposed interchange is a substantial improvement over the original location in terms of operational characteristics and design standards. Non-standard interchange spacing has been documented in the Project Report with concurrence by the Design Coordinator.

This project was programmed in the 1998 State Transportation Improvement Program – Interregional Improvement Program (STIP-IIP) with additional funding programmed in the 2002 STIP-IIP. The current project estimate is \$54.5 million, with \$7.9 million in Capital, Right of Way and Construction Support, \$6.1 million in Right of Way acquisition, and \$40.5 million for construction. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2005.

PROPOSAL

The project proposes to widen and upgrade Route 99 to current freeway standards, remove the existing intersections, and to construct a new local interchange on State Route 99 in the County of Madera at Fairmead Road.

COORDINATION

A Project Report was approved on December 31, 2003. The FED, a ND/FONSI was approved on August 11, 2003, for compliance with CEQA and on August 25, 2003, for compliance with NEPA. The Commission has considered a funding resolution under reference 2.2c.(3), concurrent with this item. A Superseding Freeway Agreement between the Department of Transportation and Madera County has been prepared for execution by the Chief Design Engineer upon approval of the connection by the Commission. Approval of the connection and execution of the Agreement rescinds the original connection point north of Road 19 ½.

CONCLUSION

The new public road connection is needed to improve safety and operations, to balance traffic distribution and to provide access to the freeway system. This new connection is in the best interest of the public.

Attachments: Resolution S-724, Area of Interest Map, Exhibit A

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing A New Public Road Connection
06-Mad-99 At Fairmead, KP 33.6 (PM 20.9)**

Resolution S-724

WHEREAS, Madera County has requested approval of a new public road connection at Fairmead; north of Road 20; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (Department) has determined that the construction of the proposed connection to State Route 99 is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act with a Negative Declaration approved on August 11, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the project will not have major impacts on the environment; and

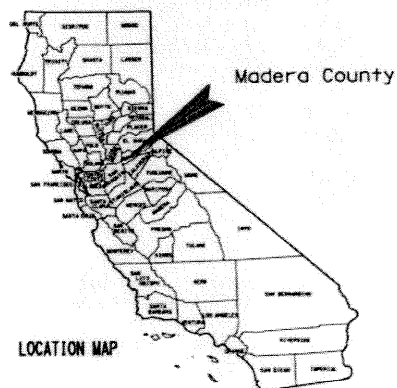
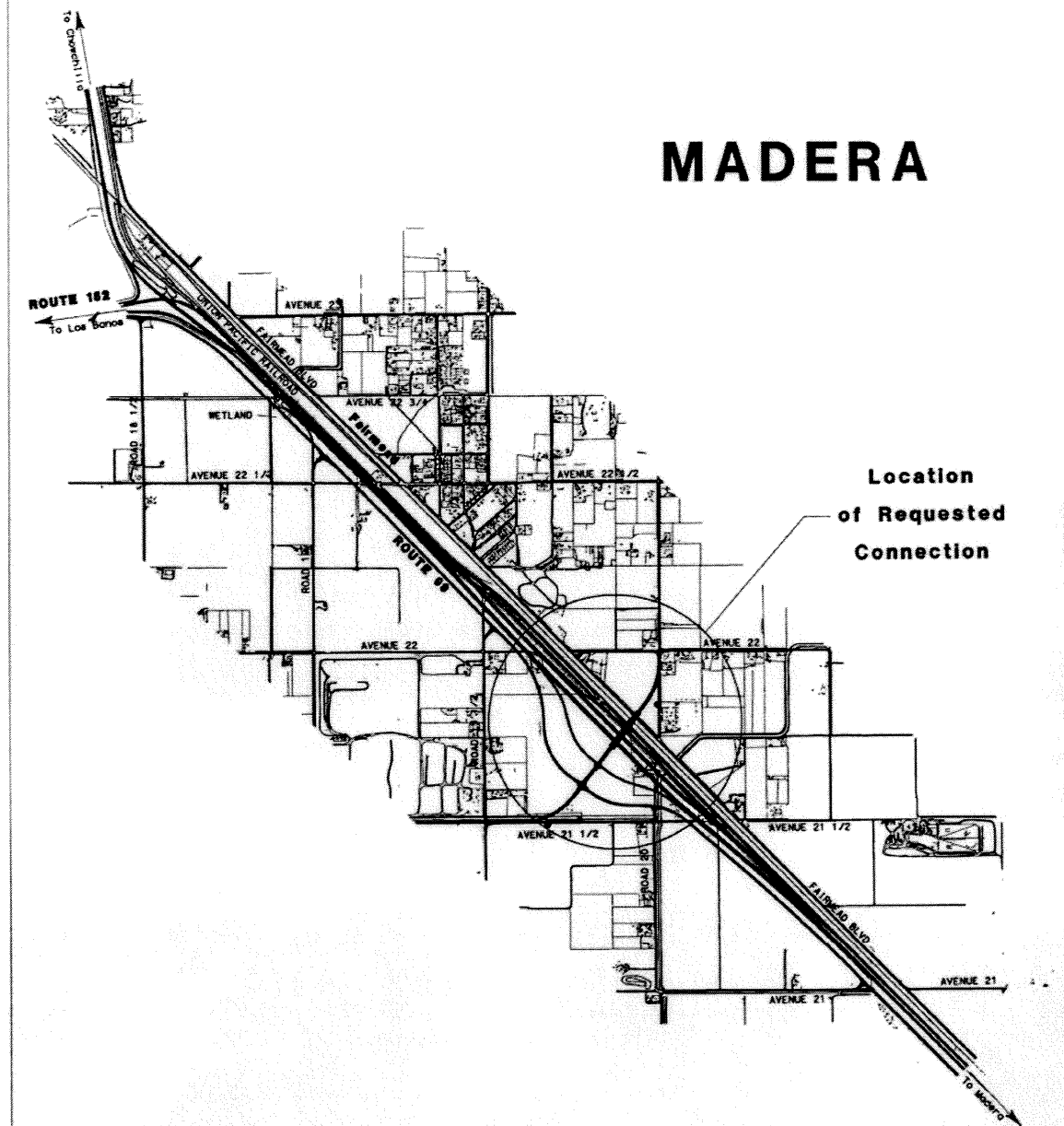
WHEREAS, the Project Report was approved on December 31, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Madera County and the Department have entered into a superseding Freeway Agreement reflecting the proposed new connection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize a new public road connection to State Route 99 at Fairmead, KP 33.6 (PM 20.9) in Madera County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that the previously approved connection to Route 99 north of Road 19 ½, KP 34.8 (PM 21.7) is hereby rescinded.

MADERA



06-MAD-99

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION
AREA OF INTEREST MAP

EXHIBIT A

